Application No. 10/623,541

## **REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 4-12 and 15-22 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 15 and 18 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 15 and 18 have been amended herein.

Favorable consideration and early examination on the merits are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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